

Energy rate increase encourages relaxed dress code

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By now everyone at APG is aware of the current energy situation and the recent trend in sky rocketing energy prices. On all levels APG is trying to make the “extraordinary efforts and sacrifices to conserve energy” that APG installation commander Maj. Gen. Roger A. Nadeau spoke of this winter in his Interim Energy Policy Memorandum. Recently, a new heating and cooling policy letter was sent to all activities advising how and when the air conditioning and heating will be turned

on/off. This new policy states that cooling will now be maintained in a range of 76 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit. Along with that, the policy addresses employee dress code. All adjustments to an activity’s dress code remain the responsibility of the directors or commanders. Any changes will need to be coordinated and approved by the individual activity heads. “Within the garrison, directors are encouraged to adopt a more relaxed dress code during the summer months to allow for more comfortable

working conditions,” said Col John T. Wright, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander. The objective in establishing a more relaxed dress code is to enable employees to project a professional, business-like image while experiencing the comfort advantages of more casual clothing. “It’s important to remember that a casual dress code doesn’t mean there is no dress code at all,” said Robin Hoory, chief, Business Management, Directorate of Installation Operations. “Because all casual clothing is not suitable for

all activities, there will still be rules and guidelines to follow, depending on individual organizations and job requirements.” A specific policy letter regarding the dress code for garrison employees is under development. “In theory, casual dress should make getting dressed for work a lot simpler. However, research shows that while women do spend less time getting dressed for work when the dress code is casual, men actually spend more time figuring out what to wear,” Hoory said.

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University of Maryland. In 2000, she started Metro Office Products with her husband, Greg, and her sister Ngoc Quynh. Metro Office Products is located in Belcamp, and sells office supplies and furniture. Sheridan said the business is marketed nationwide. “Asians in the U.S. represent 5 percent of the population,” Sheridan said. “We are as different from one another as snowflakes but we all have one thing in common,” she said. “We all left our country in which we were born.” She said some left for opportunities in the United States, freedom, or because their country had been “taken from them by hostile others” just like in her country. Sheridan said by utilizing opportunities in the United States, Asian Americans have “integrated themselves well” in the United States, noting that they are members of Congress, officers in the Army and have been linebackers for the Dallas Cowboys. Sheridan concluded her speech by talking about where she gets her inspiration. She said she always remembers the day she left Vietnam--her mother “did not have a trace of fear.”

“[My parents] had a job to do and would not let their guard down until we got to Maryland,” she said. “Any problem I have doesn’t measure up to that,” she said. “Find your inspiration in your family.” “We’re very grateful to have people like Minh (speak at the celebration) who have come to this country and made a life for themselves,” Matthews said. The celebration also featured a martial arts demonstration by Master Yoon Ho Choi, owner of Elite TOMA in Belcamp. Choi performed an ‘Energy Dance’ to relaxing, soft music. Choi was born and grew up in South Korea. He started learning martial arts when he was 5 years old. In addition, Choi is a doctor of Oriental Medicine. He earned his degree in Korea in 1992 and came to America in 1993. He taught in New Jersey, New York and Virginia before opening Choi, his first martial

arts school in Havre de Grace in 1995. Audience members had plenty of positive things to say about the program. “I liked the martial arts demonstration,” said Debbie Young of the Directorate of Information Management. “I wish I could be that flexible someday.” Young said she is “intrigued by dancing” because she has trouble standing due to cerebral palsy. Staff Sgt. Rolda Alexander, another attendee of the celebration, also enjoyed the martial arts moves. “The demonstrations were good,” Alexander said. “I wish there would be more advertisements for the martial arts school so people on active duty could sign up and learn.” “Minh’s speech was very inspirational,” she said. “Three months to get here is a long time.” The program also offered food sampling, courtesy of Family Buffet in Aberdeen.

The Asian Pacific Islander Special committee is looking for new officers. Anyone interested in participating in the committee should contact the Equal Opportunity Office, 410-278-1100.